

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

191044Z Feb 04

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 HARARE 000292

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR J. FRAZER, TEITELBAUM
LONDON FOR C. GURNEY
PARIS FOR C. NEARY
NAIROBI FOR T. PFLAUMER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/18/2014

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: NEW CABINET MEMBER BIOS

REF: HARARE 249

Classified By: POLITICAL OFFICER KIMBERLY JEMISON FOR REASONS 1.5 B/D.

[11.](#) (C) Reftel reported President Mugabe's February 9 cabinet reshuffle. As promised reftel, we provide below additional biographic information on the new appointees (we have not included cabinet members who retained the same portfolios or were switched to another portfolio):

MINISTERS OF STATE

For Policy Implementation

[12.](#) (U) Webster Shamu is the Minister of State for Policy Implementation, a new cabinet position. A war veteran of Zezeru ethnicity, he is the MP for Chegutu and the Chair of the Parliament Public Service, Labor, and Social Welfare Committee. He is also a former Mashonaland West ZANU-PF provincial chair and former editor of The People's Voice, the ZANU-PF mouthpiece. He recently acquired a safari company, HHK Safaris, in connection with which he traveled to the U.S. in February 2004 to solicit business.

[13.](#) (SBU) Shamu's MP election was a violent affair with ZANU-PF mobs accused of enforcing no-go areas against MDC activists. The black commercial farmer defeated by Shamu for the seat alleged that Shamu had threatened him with the loss of his farm if he did not withdraw a petition contesting the election results. After he did not withdraw the petition, his farm was invaded. Shamu denied any involvement with the loss of the successful farm, which reportedly was parceled out to ZANU-PF supporters.

[14.](#) (U) Shamu on occasion has publicly called for more harmony between parties and for equal protection of MDC interests under the law. He spoke out publicly in support of jailed colleague Philip Chiyangwa in January 2004. Shamu is a key political figure in Mashonaland West and is understood to be a supporter of Emmerson Mnangagwa, the Speaker of Parliament and aspiring successor to Mugabe.

[15.](#) (U) Shamu was born June 6, 1945 in Harare. His nom de guerre during the liberation struggle was Charles Ndhlovu.

For Indigenization and Empowerment

[16.](#) (U) Retired Chief Air Marshal Josiah Tungamirai is the new Minister of State for Indigenization and Empowerment and the newly elected MP for Gutu North, the seat left vacant by VP Simon Muzenda's death. He is also the ZANU-PF Secretary for Empowerment and Indigenization.

[17.](#) (U) After independence, Tungamirai was commissioned into the army with the rank of Major General as Army Chief of Staff from 1980-1982. In December 1982, he switched to the Air Force and became an Air Vice Marshal and from 1983 to 1985 he was the Chief of Staff Operations for Air Force Zimbabwe. In 1986, he became Air Force Commander with the rank of Air Marshal, a position he held until he retired in [1992](#).

[18.](#) (U) Tungamirai received a B.A. in history and a M.A. in strategic studies from the University of Zimbabwe in 1984 and 1987, respectively. He was born Thomas Mberikwazvo on October 8, 1948 in the Gutu district. Tungamirai is the nom de guerre he affected during the liberation struggle. He is married to Pamela and they have three sons.

[19.](#) (C) Tungamirai has exhibited independent and strong minded tendencies in the past. He reportedly vied with party elder Muzenda for the Gutu North seat in an earlier election, reportedly withdrawing only after direction from the President's Office. He has been associated with the Masvingo faction headed by ailing party intellectual Eddison Zvobgo. Tungamirai's latest candidacy was opposed by certain party provincial leaders, such as provincial chairman Josiah Hungwe, and it remains unclear whether he has successfully

united Masvingo's sparring ruling party factions. MDC figures told emboffs that Tungamirai was somebody they respected and with whom they could work.

SPECIAL AFFAIRS IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Anticorruption and Antimonopolies

¶10. (U) Didymus Noel Edwin Mutasa is the new Minister of Special Affairs for Anticorruption and Antimonopolies, a new cabinet position. He is also the ZANU-PF Secretary for External Relations, a position he has held since July 1992. Mutasa has held two ministerial positions, once in 1990 as Senior Minister for the now defunct Ministry of Political Affairs and again in 1992 as Senior Minister of National Affairs, Employment Creation, and Cooperatives. Prior to his post as Minister for Political Affairs, he was the Speaker of the House of Assembly in Zimbabwe's First and Second Parliaments. He was elected to Parliament three times (1980, 1985, and 1990) as the MP for Makoni Central, Manicaland.

¶11. (SBU) Historically a party hard-liner, Mutasa has made his Rusape hometown a no-go area for the MDC. In November 2002, as a response to the food crisis, Mutasa declared that the country would be better off without half of its population (a reference to opposition party MDC supporters). He reportedly was behind the ouster last year of Oppah Muchinguri, the moderate ZANU-PF governor of Manicaland. Mutasa has signaled interest in occupying the vice-presidential slot vacated on Simon Muzenda's death in ¶2003.

¶12. (U) Mutasa became active in politics in the early 1950s during his student years and eventually took up the cause of the Tangwena people of Manicaland who were resisting forced removal from their traditional lands in 1959. He was eventually imprisoned for his involvement with the Tangwena in 1970 and forced to leave the country upon his release in ¶1972. He attended the Geneva Conference on a settlement of the Rhodesia Conflict in 1976 and a year later began working full-time for ZANU in Maputo (which he had joined in 1963). He served as ZANU-PF Secretary for External Affairs and Deputy Finance Secretary in the party. In December 1989, he was elected to the 160-member ZANU-PF Central Committee and appointed Secretary for Administration in the Politburo.

¶13. (U) Mutasa did his secondary education in Goromonzi. Mutasa studied social science at Faircraft College in Britain for one year before reading a joint honors degree in Sociology and Political Science at the University of Birmingham. He was born on July 27, 1935 in Rusape, Manicaland, to a Manyika chieftaincy family. He is married to Lt. Colonel Gertrude Mutasa and has nine children. He enjoys watching and playing soccer and playing table tennis.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

¶14. (U) David Chapfika is the new Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Development. He is also the MP for Mutoko North and chairs the parliamentary Budget and Finance Portfolio Committee.

¶15. (U) According to the recently launched Mutoko North website, Chapfika is a banker by profession and has worked for many international banks. He also is associated with a variety of agricultural and commercial enterprises. He studied international trade and finance but does not hold a tertiary degree.

¶16. (U) Chapfika was born on April 1, 1957 in Mutoko. He and his wife, Abby, have four children (Tinase, Komborerai, Danai, and Anotida). He enjoys traveling, golf, squash, and jogging.

¶17. (C) Embassy officers have not been particularly impressed with Chapfika. He is more the businessman looking out for his own interests than an intellectual heavyweight. Chapfika reportedly was involved in some of the dealings that brought down fellow ZANU-PF MP Philip Chiyangwa in early 2004 but quickly distanced himself from Chiyangwa and publicly denied any wrongdoing. In his role as Parliament Budget committee chairman, he has been critical of some of the GOZ's economic decisions.

MINISTRY OF STATE OF HOME AFFAIRS

¶18. (U) Tongesai Shadreck Chipanga is the Deputy Minister of State for Home Affairs. He is also the MP for Makoni East and chairman of the Parliament Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee. Prior to his debut into politics, Chipanga worked in the Central Intelligence Organization, which he joined in the early 1980s. Chipanga was appointed Deputy Director General sometime in 1990s and

held that position until he was appointed Director General in 1998. He was fired from that position in either November 1998 or May 1999.

19. (SBU) Chipanga,s MP election was a violent affair with groups of ZANU-PF supporters accused of committing acts of violence against MDC supporters. Chipanga has denied knowledge and participation in acts of violence in his constituency during the run-up period to the election. His seat is one of several of the 2000 parliamentary seats challenged in the High Court by the MDC. In October 2003, the judge ruled in favor of the MDC and Chipanga was technically removed from his parliamentary seat on the grounds of violent intimidation during the election but Chipanga retains the seat because he filed an appeal.

20. (U) Chipanga was born on October 10, 1940. He is married. He holds a B.A. in Politics and International Studies from a university in the U.K.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

21.(U) Andrew Langa is the Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications and the MP for Insiza, a seat he won in the violent 2002 by-election. Prior to becoming MP for Insiza, Langa was the district head for the Ministry of Youth Development, Gender and Employment Creation, a position he had held since 1999.

22. (U) Langa,s father, who was a ZAPU leader in Filibusi, got Langa interested in politics. In 1989, Langa was elected into the Matabeleland South provincial youth league as the security guru. In 1993, he became secretary for administration in the youth league. In 1994, he became secretary for administration for the Filibusi ZANU-PF

SIPDIS
headquarters and in 2000 he was elected to be secretary for education in Matabeleland South.

23. (U) Langa has a diploma in adult education from the University of Zimbabwe and claims to be studying for a degree in business administration from the University of South Africa.

24. (U) Langa was born on January 13, 1965 in Filibusi. Langa and his wife, Clara, have one 15 or 16 year old daughter and two sons, one aged 13 or 14 the other aged 11 or 12.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, GENDER AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION

25. (U) Retired Brigadier Ambrose Mutinhiri is the new Minister of Youth Development, Gender and Employment Creation. He is also the MP for Marondera West. He was the Ambassador to Yugoslavia during the mid-1990s. In 2002, Mutinhiri forcibly seized a tobacco farm in Marondera.

26. (U) Mutinhiri was commissioned into the Zimbabwe National Army in 1980, after having served 17 years in the liberation struggle. He became Brigadier in 1987 and retired in May 1992.

27. (U) Mutinhiri has a B.S. in Public Administration. Mutinhiri was born in 1944. He is married and has four children. He enjoys watching soccer, tennis, playing golf and politics.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS

28. (U) Ndabazekhaya Cain G. Mathema is the new provincial governor of Bulawayo. Prior to this post he was the Zimbabwean Ambassador to Zambia. He became the Deputy Minister of Lands and Water Resources in 1997. Mathema joined the public service after independence and held many jobs among them deputy secretary for administration, finance, and human resources of the defunct parastatals commission and Vice President Joshua Nkomo,s deputy secretary. He was the elected MP for Tsholotsho until he was defeated in the 2000 parliamentary election.

29. (U) After secondary school in 1968, Mathema trained in military communications and intelligence in Moscow. He then studied for an honors degree in public administration and economics, a diploma in cooperative management and history, and a diploma in cooperatives in London and the U.S. during the liberation struggle in the 1970s.

30. (U) Mathema was born on January 28, 1949 in Sipepa, Tsholotsho. He is married and has three children and three

SIPDIS
stepchildren.

31. (SBU) Mathema has been very outspoken in his criticism of Britain, the U.S. and the Breton Woods institutions, blaming them for ruining Zimbabwe's economy. He has been combative and didactic in engagements with American diplomats.
SULLIVAN